

What is claimed is:

1. A medical information system, comprising:
 - a database of health information descriptions, each
 - 5 description relating to a patient and an associated pair, the associated pair comprising an associated access code and an associated password;
 - a first computer programmed to provide a prospective pair, the prospective pair comprising a
 - 10 prospective access code and a prospective password;
 - a second computer, in communication with the data base and with the first computer, the second computer being programmed to determine whether a prospective pair corresponds to one of the associated pairs, and if the
 - 15 prospective pair is determined to correspond to one of the associated pairs, then the second computer provides the description that corresponds to the prospective pair.
- 20 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first computer is programmed to provide a change to one of the descriptions.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the second computer
- 25 is programmed to receive the change to the one of the

descriptions, and then modify the database to reflect the change.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the second computer
5 is programmed to record who made the change to the one
of the descriptions.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a card
having thereon a card code corresponding to the
10 prospective access code.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the prospective
password is a fingerprint.

15 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the prospective
password is a retinal scan.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the
associated pairs is issued to one of the patients, and
20 the description corresponding to the one of the patients
is related to the one of the associated pairs.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the
associated pairs is issued to a physician, and the one

of the associated pairs is related to a plurality of descriptions.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the
5 associated pairs is issued to a health care provider,
and the one of the associated pairs is related to a
plurality of descriptions.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the
10 associated pairs is issued to a medical cost payer, and
the one of the associated pairs is related to a
plurality of descriptions.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the second computer
15 is programmed to cause a message to be sent to a user of
the system, the user being related to an associated
pair.

13. A method of providing medical information,
20 comprising:

providing a database of health information
descriptions, each description relating to a patient and
an associated pair, the associated pair comprising an
associated access code and an associated password;

receiving a prospective pair, the prospective pair comprising a prospective access code and a prospective password;

determining whether the prospective pair
5 corresponds to one of the associated pairs;

if the prospective pair is determined to correspond to one of the associated pairs, then providing the description that corresponds to the prospective pair.

10 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving a change to the provided description, and modifying the database according to the change.

15 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising recording who made the change to the provided description.

20 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a card having thereon a card code corresponding to the prospective access code.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a fingerprint having thereon a pattern corresponding to the prospective password.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising reading a retina having thereon a pattern corresponding to the prospective password.

5 19. The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to one of the patients, and relating the one of the associated pairs with only the description relating to the one of the patients.

10 20. The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a physician, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

15 21. The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a health care provider, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

20 22. The method of claim 13, further comprising issuing one of the associated pairs to a medical cost payer, and relating the one of the associated pairs to a plurality of the descriptions.

23. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a message to a user related to an associated pair when the description is provided.

5 24. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code instructions embodied therein to cause a computer to provide access to medical information, the instructions having:

10 a computer readable program code module to determine whether a prospective pair is among a group of associated pairs;

a computer readable program code module to provide medical information corresponding to the prospective
15 pair, if the prospective pair is among the group of associated pairs.

25. The article of manufacture of claim 24, further comprising a computer readable program code module to
20 instruct a computer to change the provided medical information.

26. The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising a computer readable program code module to

instruct a computer to record who made the change to the provided medical information.

27. The article of manufacture of claim 24, further
5 comprising a computer readable program code module to instruct a computer to provide a message to a user related to an associated pair when the description is provided.

10 28. A medical information system, comprising:
a database of health information descriptions, each description relating to a patient and an associated access code;

15 a card having thereon a first computer programmed to require entry of a password prior to providing a prospective access code;

a second computer, in communication with the data base and with the first computer, the second computer being programmed to determine whether the prospective
20 access code corresponds to one of the associated access codes, and if the prospective access code is determined to correspond to one of the associated access codes, then the second computer provides the description that corresponds to the prospective access code.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the first computer is programmed to provide a change to one of the descriptions.

5 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the second computer is programmed to receive the change to the one of the descriptions, and then modify the database to reflect the change.

10 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the second computer is programmed to record who made the change to the one of the descriptions.

15 32. The system of claim 28, wherein the prospective password is a fingerprint.

33. The system of claim 28, wherein the prospective password is a retinal scan.

20 34. The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to one of the patients, and the description corresponding to the one of the patients is related to the one of the associated access codes.

35. The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to a physician, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

5

36. The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated pairs is issued to a health care provider, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

10

37. The system of claim 28, wherein one of the associated access codes is issued to a medical cost payer, and the one of the associated access codes is related to a plurality of descriptions.

15

38. The system of claim 28, wherein the second computer is programmed to cause a message to be sent to a user of the system, the user being related to the provided description.

20

39. A method of providing medical information, comprising:

providing a database of health information descriptions, each description relating to a patient and an associated access code;

25

providing a card capable of providing a prospective
access code;

providing a password;

providing the prospective access code;

5 determining whether the prospective access code
corresponds to one of the associated access codes;

if the prospective access code is determined to
correspond to one of the associated access codes, then
providing the description that corresponds to the
10 prospective access code.

40. The method of claim 39, further comprising
receiving a change to the provided description, and
modifying the database according to the change.

15

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising
recording who made the change to the provided
description.

20 42. The method of claim 39, wherein providing a
password includes providing a fingerprint having thereon
a pattern corresponding to the password.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein providing a password includes providing a retina having thereon a pattern corresponding to the password.

5 44. The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to one of the patients, and relating the one of the associated access codes with only the description relating to the one of the patients.

10

45. The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a physician, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

15

46. The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a health care provider, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

20

47. The method of claim 39, further comprising issuing one of the associated access codes to a medical cost payer, and relating the one of the associated access codes to a plurality of the descriptions.

25

48. The method of claim 39, further comprising providing a message to a user related to an associated access code when the description is provided.

5 49. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code instructions embodied therein to cause a computer to provide access to medical information, the instructions having:

10 a computer readable program code module to determine whether a prospective access code is among a group of associated access codes;

a computer readable program code module to provide medical information corresponding to the prospective
15 access code, if the prospective access code is among the group of associated access codes.

50. The article of manufacture of claim 49, further comprising a computer readable program code module to
20 instruct a computer to change the provided medical information.

51. The article of manufacture of claim 50, further comprising a computer readable program code module to

instruct a computer to record who made the change to the
provided medical information.

52. The article of manufacture of claim 49, further
5 comprising a computer readable program code module to
instruct a computer to provide a message to a user
related to an associated access code when the
description is provided.

52. The article of manufacture of claim 49, further
comprising a computer readable program code module to
instruct a computer to provide a message to a user
related to an associated access code when the
description is provided.